

So *THE OFFICIAL FESTIVALS OF OSTRIS*
BOOK in

made. The cakes are called ^c dirge-loaf.^{5_u1} Even in the remote Island of St. Kilda it was customary on All Saints³ Day to bake a large cake in the form of a triangle, ^f furrowed round ; the cake must be all eaten that night²

Feast of The same mode of celebrating All Souls' Day has been MI Souls transported by Catholicism to the New World and imparted

imong the ⁱ ^j indians of to the aborigines of that continent inus in Larcni, a Ecuador. provjnce of Ecuador, the Indians prepare foods of various sorts against All Souls' Day, and when the day has come they take some of the provisions to the church and there deposit them on tables set out for the purpose. These good things are the perquisite of the priest, who celebrates mass for the dead. After the service the Indians repair to the cemetery, where with burning candles and pots of holy water they prostrate themselves before the tombs of their relations, while the priest or the sacristan recites prayers for the souls of the departed. In the evening the Indians return to their houses. A table with four lights on it is spread with food and drink, especially with such things as the dead loved in their life. The door is left open all night, no doubt to let the spirits of the dead enter, and the family sits up, keeping the invisible guests company through the long hours of darkness. From seven o'clock and onwards troops of children traverse the village and its neighbourhood. They go from house to house ringing a bell and crying, "We are angels, we descend from the sky, we ask for bread." The people go to their doors and beg the children to recite a

Pater Noster or an *Ave Maria* for the dead whom they name. When the prayer has been duly said, they give the children a little of the food from the table. All night long this goes on, band succeeding band of children. At five o'clock in the morning the family consumes the remainder of the food of the souls.³ Here the children going from door to door during the night of All Souls appear to personate the souls of the dead who are also abroad at that time; hence to give bread to the children is the same thing as to

¹ T. F. Thiselton Dyer, *British don*, 1808-1814), iii. 666.

Popular Customs, p. 410. ² M. Martin, "Description of the les Indiens de la Republique de Western Islands of Scotland," in John P^quateur, "L*Antkropologu, xvii. Pinkerton's *Voyages and Travels* (Lon-

(1906) pp. 93 sq.